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PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER  
6 March 1982

### Scams, Shades of Abscam

Masquerading as Arabs and posing as CIA undercover operatives, two 19-year-old college students were arrested Thursday in a scheme to trick a Miami bank into granting them a sheik-sized \$200 million line of credit.

The FBI said Alexander Louis Medina of Dania, Fla., and James J. Remite of Hillsboro Beach, Fla., had been dressed in the business suits and *burnooses* of Arab sheiks when arrested at a Miami luxury hotel on bank-fraud charges.

The two University of Florida students, who traveled in a chauffeured limousine, allegedly tried to convince executives from Pan American Bank in Miami that they were CIA agents. They said they needed the huge line of credit for "official purposes."

The bank was to deliver the checks to "certain individuals that the intelligence agency had under surveillance in connection with the leaks from the Pentagon," according to a bank official.

The story, a banker said, seemed "somewhat credible." Nevertheless, within five minutes, he was on the telephone to the CIA. CIA officials referred the banker to the FBI. The FBI suggested the bank continue to "play their game."

Telephone negotiations continued for more than a week. Only now, the "bankers" were actually FBI agents. The callers, who sounded as if they were in their 30s and telephoning long distance, said they wanted 30 to 40 checks drawn on the account of an oil company called AARMCO, the FBI said.

A meeting was set for Thursday at the hotel. The suspects showed up dressed as sheiks. The meeting was brief. It ended with their arrest.

Medina, who was a premedical student, had "never been in any trouble before in his life," his mother said Thursday night. "He's a very smart boy," she said. "I don't know where he got this idea. Stupid."